

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA H	FORM NO. 377
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City Lexington
Address 25 Oakland Street
Historic Name Theodore Parker Robinson
House

Present residential
Original residential

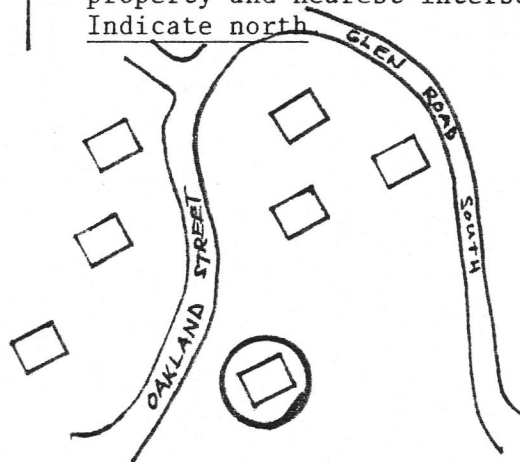
DESCRIPTION:

Year 1887

Source Lexington Minute Man, Sept. 23, 1887

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Style Shingle Style

Architect Abram C. Washburn (builder)

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage .8 A. (34128 ft.²)

Setting Meriam Hill; residential street
of substantial late nineteenth century
houses.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This is one of the finest Shingle Style houses in Lexington. A successful composition of jutting eaves and overhangs supported by curved shingled brackets and arched openings, with overall wall finish of staggered butt shingles, this house is an interesting accent on Meriam Hill where most of the houses are Queen Anne or Colonial Revival. Abram C. Washburn was the builder of this house.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The house was built by Theodore Parker Robinson, member of one of two prominent families of that name in Lexington. He was the nephew of Simon W. Robinson, after whom the local Masonic Temple was named, and son of George W. Robinson, Boston provisions merchant and president for many years of the Lexington Savings Bank. T.P. Robinson spent part of his adulthood on the island of Mauritius, but returned to live in Lexington and became a clerk in Boston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 587. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Lexington Minute Man, September 23, 1887.

Worthen, Edwin B. "George Slept -- Where?" Lexington Minute Man, November 13, 1969.

1889 atlas

1906 atlas

1887 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
25 OAKLAND ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

H

377

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was one of a handful of dwellings constructed on Meriam Hill in 1887 (see also 14, 16, 20 & 23 Oakland Street). David W. Muzzey sold the land to Theodore Robinson in July (*Minute-man*, July 22, 1887). Abram C. Washburn began construction of the house in September (*Minute-Man*, Sept. 23, 1887).

Theodore Robinson lived here with his wife Rebecca (Munroe) and daughter Theodora. Mrs. Robinson died in 1906 and Theodore died in 1909. Miss Robinson lived here briefly with a female companion before marrying Rev. George Ballard in 1911.

By 1918 the house was owned and occupied by Alton Hathaway who operated a wholesale bakery in Cambridge and lived here with his wife, four children and a maid. Hathaway still owned the house in 1942.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, July 22, 1887; Sept. 23, 1887; Nov. 17, 1906; Nov. 6, 1909.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
U.S. Census Records, 1900-1930.

Supplement prepared by:
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